

be dealt with immediately, I would suggest that there should be a discussion on this communal outbreak in Delhi.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will suggest to the Chairman that we can discuss this matter in some form in which it is possible. I would request hon. Members not to put questions and we can adjourn for lunch now.

सदन की कार्यवाही सवा-दो बजे तक के लिए स्थगित की जाती है।

The House then adjourned for lunch at eighteen minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at eighteen minutes past two of the clock, Mr. Deputy Chairman in the Chair.

REFERENCE TO THE REPORTED INTRUSION BY TAIWAN FISHING TRAWLERS INTO THE TERRITORIAL WATERS OF INDIA

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Naidu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I draw the attention of the Central Government through you to a serious problem of unauthorised illegal entry of the Taiwan trawlers into our territorial waters causing heavy damage to our Indian fishermen subsequently. More than ten Taiwan fishing trawlers were operating in the sea within about 32 kms from Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu for the last two weeks. These trawlers have damaged the nets of Tuticorin fishermen worth lakhs of rupees laid in Indian waters and this has discouraged the fishermen from putting out to sea, according to a statement issued by the fishermen association here in Tuticorin. That Association says that the intrusions have been reported to Fisheries Department officials, Ministers etc., but no action has been taken so far. If no concrete steps are taken soon, the Association has warned, fishermen will picket the local fisheries and sub-Collector's offices.

Sir, in the year 1980 also, on one occasion, one Taiwan trawler was captured by our Indian Navy, but what happened? Within a few days they were released. At that time had our Government taken very serious view of the situation and had it taken serious action against them, this thing would not have been repeated by them. Also during the tenure of arrest, they have been supported financially by a big firm in Tuticorin, namely Galaxy International Clearing Agency (P) Ltd., Tuticorin. It is not known what interest they have got in the crew. Also the fishermen now are very much scared. They are very much discouraged because heavy damage has been done to their fishing nets. They are not in a position to go in for fishing into the sea. So, unless concrete steps are taken by the Government to create such a situation that hereafter if any foreign trawler enters into our territorial waters, it should be caught and also serious action should be taken, otherwise people will not dare go for fishing. So, I would request the Government, through you, Sir, to take concrete steps and also to strengthen our naval fleet and its patrolling so that our fishermen will feel secure. Also it should be broadcast over All India Radio that such and such steps have been taken by the Government so that fishermen need not be afraid and they can go to sea for fishing. This is an important matter and I would request the Government through you to take concrete steps in this regard.

REFERENCE TO THE REPORTED CRISIS IN THE PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IN WEST BENGAL

SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY (West Bengal): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am very much grateful to you for allowing me to raise this very serious question. One question regarding finances has recently been partially solved by the Prime Minister alongwith the Finance Minister. But this is regarding the food problem.

There is a crisis facing the public distribution system in West Bengal, including the statutory rationing system, which faces the prospect of a complete breakdown owing to poor supply position out of the Central allotment as also because of the poor quality of rice and reported Central embargo on purchase of rice by the West Bengal Government for meeting the crisis. A serious situation has arisen all over the State regarding the breakdown of the public distribution system as also availability of foodgrains in the open market.

The public distribution system in West Bengal including the statutory rationing system faces the prospect of complete breakdown owing to—

(a) wide gap between paper allotment for the State from the Centre and actual supply;

(b) poor quality of foodstuffs supplied to the State;

(c) continuous decrease in the State's quota since 1980-81. Even if the West Bengal's paper allotment is the highest as claimed by the Union Agricultural Minister, it is because the State has the most elaborate public distribution system in the country, barring, perhaps, Kerala.

If the Centre's allotment of foodstuffs had been received in full, there would be a shortfall of 60,000 metric tonnes. Drought condition and continuously increasing prices made it impossible to make up the deficit through local procurement. The State Government did, therefore, take steps to purchase rice from Andhra Pradesh where there was bumper crop. The Centre is reported to have put an embargo on the purchase.

The Centre has on its part, consistently failed to remove the bottleneck in supply. According to the Central allotment, West Bengal is to get 1,75,000 tonnes of rice, 1,00,000 tonnes of wheat and 55,000 tonnes of wheat for flour mills per month. Actual supply in the last two months was 1,40,000 tonnes of rice, 60,000 tonnes of wheat; flour mills, the quantity was 35,000

tonnes of wheat. The precarious supply position would be clear from the lowest stock position in the FCI godown at Malda for five districts of North Bengal, namely mere 300 tonnes of foodgrains.

The situation has been worsened because of large quantity of foodgrains supplied being unfit for human consumption. Even though the Union Government agreed to replace the supply accepted to be unfit for human consumption by the representatives of the FCI, the agreement has been observed more in breach. About 22 per cent of the supply was found to be in this category but the same found its way in ration shops.

The acute drought condition together with renewed high inflationary pressure on the economy in recent weeks has raised the prices of foodstuffs together with all other essential commodities. Consequently off-take from ration shops has sharply risen. In this context, if the Union Government does not ensure regular supply of foodstuffs fit for human consumption, at least to the level of their promised quota, the public distribution system would face a collapse.

So I draw the attention of the Government...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That you have already drawn. Shri Kalyansundaram.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): Your information is not correct.

REFERENCE TO THE REPORTED ACCUMULATION OF STOCKS OF HANDLOOM IN VARIOUS STATES PARTICULARLY IN TAMIL NADU THEREBY LEADING TO UNEMPLOYMENT OF LARGE NUMBER OF HANDLOOM FEATHERS.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, at the outset kindly permit me to thank you for having permitted me to make this special mention. Honourable Mr. Gopalsamy referred